

Prince Albert vriend

'n Gemeenskapskoerant wat Prince Albert, Klaarstroom, Leeu-Gamka en Merweville bedien

UITGawe/ISSUE 169

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IS THE SWARTBERG PASS ABOUT TO COLLAPSE?



Collapse of parapet wall and erosion of supporting structure.

Following serious rain and other damage to the Swartberg Pass since 2009 and despite determined efforts by the Prince Albert Cultural Foundation (PACF) to get the cooperation of the different stakeholders, little has happened, valuable time has been lost and R1 million allocated to do repairs remains unspent. Tragically, after the heavy rainfall in February, the condition of the Pass has again deteriorated.

The current state of the Pass is a serious reflection on both provincial and local authorities. The Prince Albert Municipal Council has failed to take ownership of its role as directed by the MEC for Local Government. In a letter to the PACF on 6 May 2010, the MEC confirmed that "This project will be handled as a priority item and in consultation...and managed from the office of the Executive Mayor" and "This project is already part of the Integrated Development Plan".

In a letter in May 2010 Robin Carlisle, the MEC for Transport and Public Works, praised the PACF for its initia-

tive and confirmed that: "We proudly report our progress with regards to certain commitments made in support of the **Swartberg Pass Restoration Project**." The letter stated that consulting engineers had been appointed; an extended public works programme was to be initiated; and the Oudtshoorn Regional Office had allocated R1 million. Other stakeholders are CapeNature, Eden Municipality and Central Karoo District Council which is responsible for ongoing maintenance.

Nothing has happened

Subsequently, the PACF met with the engineer who was preparing documents for tenders due for release in October 2010. Input on heritage and conservation aspects relating to Thomas Bain's original design was given. Heritage Western Cape's permission was sought and its heritage consultant agreed with the PACF's recommendations. Nothing has happened since then.

There are two phases to the Restoration Project. First, the drainage needs to be upgraded, the parapet and structural walls

Inside

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- ❖ Jong entrepreneur vol planne
- ❖ Serious hail damage in Klaarstroom
- ❖ Natural gas in the Karoo: The whole Fracking Debate

need to be restored and the road resurfaced. Then a long-term management plan needs to be put in place.

Until such time as Thomas Bain's original construction with its functioning drainage principles, and supervised manual maintenance work is undertaken, the Swartberg Pass, a provincial monument located within a World Heritage Site, will deteriorate further, become unusable for the private car and will inevitably see a decline in tourism in the town.

We want more than just promises, promises and promises

The current state of the Pass is so bad that all who live in and around this priceless heritage should write to Robin Carlisle, MEC for Transport and Public Works at PO Box 2603, CAPE TOWN 8000, email H.O.D. at cjfourie@pgwc.co.za, and copy Anton Bredell, MEC for Local Government at Private Bag X9186, CAPE TOWN 8000, email H.O.D. hfast@pgwc.gov.za, to put the **Swartberg Pass Restoration Project** back on track without delay.

It would also be useful to write to the Prince Albert Council demanding its commitment to the project and to provide the project with the status it urgently requires: Prince Albert Municipal Council, PO Box 109, PRINCE ALBERT 6930, email: acting Municipal Manager pedro@pamun.gov.za

PRINCE ALBERT

Cultural Foundation /
Kultuurstigting



Drie Hoera's!

Met die deurblaai van hierdie uitgawe van die Vriend, bly die groot veskeidenheid van interessante en pertinente artikels, geskryf deur inwoners van Prince Albert en Klaarstroom verstommend. Wat 'n oorvloedige versameling van interessante persoonlikhede en talentvolle mense! Die Vriend is volledig 'n koerant wat deur ons geskryf word oor dinge wat ons interesseer en sake wat vir ons belangrik is.

Een van hierdie kwessies is 'fracking' wat groot dele van die Karoo bedreig en waarvan die Suid-Afrikaanse media tans vol is. Ons is gelukkig om inwoners te hê, spesialiste van die kaliber van paleontoloog Judy Maguire, op wie ons ons kan beroep om met gesag oor die onderwerp

te skryf. Dit word gewillig en sonder enige vergoeding gedoen. Dit gebeur elke maand. Mense bied aan om te skryf oor wat hulle interesseer of om hulle spesialis-veld te deel. Ander ontdek hulle skryftalent na 'n bietjie aanmoediging.

Ons sou graag wou hê dat mense oor die algemeen en ons skole, kerke, klubs en NGO??? bydraes lewer. Ons lesers stel ook in hulle nuus en siening belang.

Weereens 'n beroep op adverteerders om hulle rekeninge tydig te vereffen. Ons is 'n geen wins koerant en steun op die inkomste van advertensies en koerantverkope om ons administratiewe en drukkoste te betaal. As jy nie jou rekening betaal nie, kan ons ook nie. So betaal asseblief

Editor: Linda Jaquet

Finansies: Cornie Koen

Bladuitleg & advertensie ontwerp:

Kerneels Mulder

We aim to deliver a *Prince Albert Friend* to the community at the end of each month. To make this possible, we need to receive contributions & advertisements by 11 MARCH 2011.

Handig kopie in, verkieslik in MS Word 2000 formaat, getik of in drukskrif geskryf by die toerismekantoor of e-pos aan:

princealbertfriend@gmail.com

Subscription / Intekening

11 issues p.a. @ R150,00 - including postage & packaging.

Apart from Nov/Dec, this is a monthly publication. U kan by die **toerismekantoor** langs die Fransie Pienaar Museum inteken.

Website: www.patourism.co.za
princealbertfriend.blogspot.com

**Closing date for contributions and adverts for the next issue is
11 MARCH 2011**

No late submissions accepted!

Inserts charged at R500 each

Advertensiegeld Advert costs

Full page R330; Half page R176;
Quarter page (12cm x 9.45cm) R93,50;
R4,95 for every cm per column. R2.75 per line for small ads.

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Note: Adverts are limited to the following widths (except in the case of a quarter page): 6.1cm (1 column), 12.8cm (2 columns) and 19cm (3 columns). They can however be any height. Proofs only by request.

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LETTERS / BRIEWE

Die *Prince Albert Friend* behou die reg voor om briewe te redigeer en te verkort. Brieve moet vergesel wees van die skrywer se naam, adres en telefoonnummer (nie vir bekendstelling nie.) The *Prince Albert Friend* reserves the right to edit and shorten letters. Letters must provide the writer's name, address and telephone number (not for publication).

Miernes Kleuterskool sê baie dankie!

Hiermee 'n hartlike dankie aan Bodo vir sy finansiële ondersteuning gedurende 2010. Bodo het gedurende 2010 die bedrag van R16 920 aan ons kinders geskenk sodat hul skool kon bywoon. Ons waardeer dit baie.

Miernes Maatjies

Thank you, Jan Nel

It is not often that one appreciates a telephone call at 06:30 in the morning. We certainly welcomed Jan Nel's call at that time on 14 February alerting us to a burst water pipe after he had seen water pouring from our property onto Magrieta Prinsloo Street.

If not for Jan the loss of water would have been far greater than the 33000 litres that ran down the road!

Thanks again for caring, Jan.

Richard and Julie Waterston

Café Albert's hospitality

As first time visitors to Prince Albert last year we had an excellent lunch at *Café Albert*, little realising that on our visit this year it would be opening for dinner for the first time on Valentine's Day.

We had not reserved a table but the owner very kindly brought a table from inside onto the terrace for us. We were able to enjoy a delightful evening with wonderful food in the company of mainly local people who went out of their way to be friendly and hospitable.

Thank you so much *Café Albert* - we shall certainly be back next year.

*Mairina and Tony Wilson
Ilkley, West Yorkshire, U.K*

DA councillors are not democratic

Our three DA councillors were due to meet with the town's residents at St John's Church hall on Bank Street on Thursday evening, 3 February at 18H00. The meeting was arranged some weeks in advance and was to be chaired by Dr Annelie Rabie, who heads the DA's South End committee.

However, the meeting was cancelled late that afternoon as, I understand, Councillors Botes, Jansen and Goliath "would not make themselves available." To date there has been no apology from the councillors nor has the community been advised whether another meeting will take place.

Do the DA councillors know the meaning of the word 'democracy' and how a democratic system works? I wonder if they understand that they and their ANC counterparts are elected by the people to act for the people who in turn expect them to communicate and collaborate with the very people who elected them.

Communication is a two way process and so I look forward to a rescheduling of the public meeting with the DA representa-

tives. The current DA councillors can expect many questions, particularly about their performance during the Council's term. I also would like to know what they intend doing for the benefit and good of everyone in Prince Albert after the municipal elections this year and in the following months and years.

After all, that is what should be first and foremost in their daily thoughts and actions.

I presume that if there is no meeting that our present DA councillors will not be standing for re-election in the upcoming local government elections.

I look forward to some reaction to this letter as appeals to senior DA leaders in Cape Town have fallen on deaf ears.

*John Mckenna
(Until now, a loyal DA supporter)*

Irregular ward committee meetings to blame

It is indeed sad that the meeting scheduled for Thursday, 3 February, at 18h00 did not take place. The incumbent DA Councillors and the MP for this area, Mr Michael de Villiers, had agreed to participate. On Tuesday, 1 February, around lunchtime the Speaker, Cllr Stofel Botes, called to say that the meeting

(Continued on p 8)

JUJU JEWELS

JULIE ANN WATERSTON

KAROO VIEW

Magrieta Prinsloo Rd,

Prince Albert

Cell: 082 882 5342

Email: jalrjw@mweb.co.za

Phone for appointment to view



Festival Fever!

Residents and visitors can look forward to a 2011 Olive Festival, which has a mix of new and exciting events and those that have proven to be firm favourites in previous years. Highlights of the Festival that will take place on 30 April and 1 May are helicopter flips and Eric Nobbs as Oom Schalk Lourens in *Leopards, Love Potions and Other Marico Tales* at the Jans Rautenbach Schouwburg.

Those who prefer their feet firmly on the ground can join Sue Dean on her nature walks and learn more about the delicate ecology of the Karoo, or take the opportunity to explore the town at their leisure on the Open Homes and Gardens walking tour. There's always the Zwartberg half marathon for people who prefer to do things on the trot.

Essie Esterhuizen of Prince Albert Olives and Jeremy Freemantle of African Relish will keep foodies happy with talks on olives, olive oil and cooking. There will be a *mampoerstook* at the Museum,

opportunities to visit to the two olive presses in the area, the local wineries and a fig farm and stargaze with Astro Tours.

The Eden Minstrels are back by popular demand and nostalgia buffs can enjoy vintage South African movies at the Schouwburg. There will be sand art workshops and jumping castles for younger festival-goers and of course, the Olive Pip Spitting Competition.

"This year the stalls will be arranged in the *markie*, in *Die Dam*, around the Museum and on the small sports field of Hoërskool Zwartberg," Di Steyn, chairperson of the Tourism Association, told the *Friend*. "This offers more shade and a more compact, intimate Festival and no inconvenience to the residents on Church Street".

Contact the Tourism Office to find out more and to book your stall:
023 541 1366 or via e-mail at
princealberttourism@intekom.co.za

PRINCE ALBERT

OLIVE FESTIVAL 2011

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Prince Albert Valley

(Cellar is situated on the R407 – 22km out of Prince Albert – towards Klaarstroom)

Starry Splendour over Prince Albert

- Hans Daehne -

On 21 March we will have the Autumn Equinox after which the nights will gradually get longer than the days. In autumn we are in the ideal situation that we can still enjoy the last of the summer constellations in the early evening to the North-West and already see some of the early winter constellations in the late evening in the North-East. Make a last effort to look at the Orion Nebula with a pair of binoculars on some kind of support – it is really worth-while. The Orion Nebula (M42) is the fuzzy patch above the three belt stars and can be regarded as a “maternity ward” of stars. The dense gas cloud that you will see is illuminated by the bright, young stars it has borne and the hydrogen gas itself is only made visible to us that way. Can you imagine how much gas there must be so that one can actually see it? Seen through a telescope the Orion Nebula looks alive and photos from the Hubble Space Telescope show a colourful display of gas and stars.

The equilateral Summer Triangle formed by the brightest stars of the Hunter and his two hunting dogs (the red Betelgeuse, the bright Sirius and Procyon) is still up in the North-West indicating that the summer is over and that we can now admire the Autumn Constellation Leo above our heads. Virgo is also an Autumn Constellation and it gains in status at the moment because it harbours the fairly bright Saturn.

Venus is still the bright morning star while Jupiter sets soon after sunset, which leaves us only with Saturn.

Saturn makes its reappearance for 2011 as an all night object again in the constel-

lation of Virgo close to Spica and although it will only be at opposition on the 4th of April it will already be quite bright (mag 0, 6) in March with its rings more in the open position.

The imaginary line Regulus – Saturn – Spica is part of the Ecliptic, the orbit around the Sun where the planets and the Moon can be found. All the constellations of the Zodiac also lie on or close to the Ecliptic while Orion is a constellation on the Celestial Equator which is the other imaginary line in the sky straight from east to west. The celestial equator is the projection of earth's equator extended skywards and runs approximately parallel to and close to Orion's belt.

New Moon will be on the 4th and Full Moon on the 19th of March.

In Autumn we can also see some of the most beautiful open and globular star clusters. In Canis major not far from the bright Sirius is M41 and of course the Jewel Box close to Beccrux must not be forgotten. If you really want to have lots of stars in your eyes look at the bright patches in the Milky Way to the right of the Southern Cross.

NASA News

A sail in the sky as suggested 400 years ago by astronomer Johannes Kepler has become reality in January with the unfurling of NASA's Nano Sail-D. The first solar sail spacecraft in low Earth orbit is propelled by the small but continuous pressure of the solar wind. To catch a glimpse of this “sailship” in the sky visit the website www.heavens-above.com for predictions when and where to see it over Prince Albert.

Keep the stars in your eyes!

SUBSKRIPSIES

Vir 'n jaar se subskripsie (11 uitgawes) stuur asseblief 'n tjek van R150 betaalbaar aan *Prince Albert Friend* sowel as u volledige besonderhede na die volgende adres:
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FUTURE EVENTS

March 2011

2 March: Garden Club, 4 de Beer St, 15:00

4 & 5 March: Stargazing with Astro Tours

11 & 12 March: Stargazing with Astro Tours

12 Maart: VLV, Maria Oosthuizen, Jans Rautenbach Schouwburg, 09:00

18 Maart: Bloedskenk, NG Kerksaal, 11:30 - 14:30

April 2011

6 April: Garden Club visit to Weltevrede, meet at FP Museum at 14:00

13 April: VLV, Tuinbou en Landbou: Besoek aan 'n olyfplaas

30 April – 1 Mei: Prince Albert Olyffees



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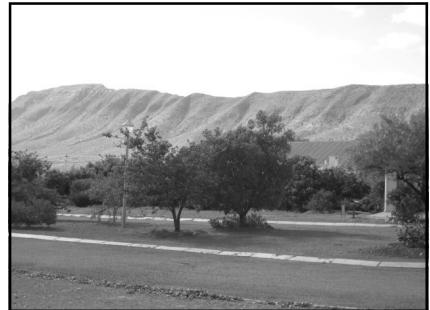
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FOR SALE!

A small plot with cool vibes. Invest in the Great Karoo with its inspiring sunsets and glorious vistas. This 330 m² plot has access to the koppie and is available for only **R165,000**.

SOLD!

What a good buy! Congratulations to Alex De Wit and Colette Schönborn from Port Elizabeth with the purchase of this lovely plot in Klipstraat. They can now plan around excellent location, views, trees... and there is the bonus of an historic boundary wall.

FOR SALE!

A cutie pie of a plot in a quiet and safe crescent. Come and build your retirement home in our pretty little village where you can live in harmony with nature and your neighbours. **R250,000**

AN EXCITING PROJECT TO FINISH...

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Large elevated plot with commanding views. Foundation slab for granny flat complete.

Building inspector's report available. **R1.3 mil**



R 1,65 mil

'n Interessante, moderne huis; lig en ruim op 'n dubbelerf met lieflike inheemse tuin. Mooi hoofslaapkamer en-suite; sitkamer met kaggel... Baie kaste.

R 850,000

Kom verdien 'n inkomste in die Karoo. Steenmaak-besigheid in die Industriële Gebied. Gebou van 46 m² plus 120 m² sementblad op erf van 2,500 m²; goed omhein.

R 950,000

Kom kyk bietjie na hierdie soliede 3 slaapkamerhuis met sy lekker stoep wat uitskyk oor die berge. Toesluit-motorhuis; maklike tuin. Kom leef hier in rus en vrede!

(Letters... Continued from p 4)

had to be moved to 17h00 as the Mayor had arranged an *Imbizo* in Leeu-Gamka for 18h00.

It was practically impossible to go back to everyone as the invitation to and notification of this meeting was done by private individuals and not by the local authority that could pick up the tab for the expense. However, as most people work till 17h00; guest house arrivals are usually between 16h00 and 17h00; school sporting activities only finish around 16h00 and farmers only clock out around 17h00 we believed it to be unreasonable to change the time of the meeting.

The Speaker was adamant the meeting arranged by the Mayor should receive preference and therefore he and Cllr Willem Jansen indicated that they would not be attending the meeting.

The Councillors' Code of Conduct states that an official Council meeting and Council activity take preference and councillors may only be excused from these meetings by the Speaker and then,

with very good reason.

The above information is necessary in view of my reaction to the decision of the Councillors not to attend the meeting. I did report and discuss this with both Mr de Villiers and the Provincial Leader of the DA. Since this was not a DA meeting but a general information session for all residents of South End, it technically was a matter for the MEC for Local Government and not the party structures.

The Mayor apparently cancelled the original *Imbizo* scheduled for a week earlier in Leeu Gamka due to another commitment. Technically, the Mayor should have apologised for the inconvenience. However, I had a strong argument with the Speaker indicating that he knew about the ward meeting and that he should not have agreed to the Leeu-Gamka meeting and effectively double booked the Councillors. To their credit, the DA Councillors did apologise for the double booking.

This situation would not have arisen if regular ward committee meetings were

held. Despite the fact that South End does not have a council representative, Council as a collective – whether DA or ANC – should, under the leadership of the Mayor, ensure that these meetings are held.

*Dr Annelie Rabie
Chair, DA South End Ward Committee*

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With a Karoo koppie as your neighbour, perched on the outer slopes of town this property has the potential to match your imagination. Currently built to roof height with fitted door- and window frames, the house is situated on a 2700 SQM stand - which leaves ample space for a landscaped garden, garden cottage, braai area, swimming pool, vegetable patch, Koi pond... Just imagine.

PRICE: R1 300 000 neg.



Situated in charming old Church Street on a 1400 SQM stand and recently renovated, this home offers a spacious entrance hall leading into an open plan kitchen (with Dover stove), a large walk-in pantry, dining area and separate scullery. With two bedrooms, bathroom and guest toilet, a quaint stoep shaded by an old pepper tree adds the final true Karoo touch.

PRICE: R780 000



If living in the Karoo and running your own business seems a distant dream - we can make that dream come true! A profitable, well established and true Karoo business on one of the most premium sites in town makes for an exciting proposition. The once sprawling old manor house, a perfect self contained cottage and a beautiful established garden will cater for most retail requirements.

PRICE ON APPLICATION



Surrounded by tall, shady trees and built in 1906 on a double plot with adjacent leiewater, this home epitomises Karoo living. Original fittings in immaculate condition include sash windows, wooden floors and doors. A self catering cottage (great income generation possibilities) and a must-have splash pool add to the charm.

WEBSITE PROPERTY REF: RES.22 PRICE: R1 100 000



A true Karoo olive farm! Just off the N1, nestled between Beaufort West and Laingsburg on 23ha, this thriving estate has a 350 SQM homestead, workshop, out-buildings (150 SQM) and a self contained cottage currently generating R3 500 per month. The olive grove comprises 5ha under micro irrigation, fed by four boreholes producing 49 000 litres/h. What's more, its location would make for a magnificent guest house!

PRICE: R2.8 M excl. VAT



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Ria Steyn

Dennehof
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Eric Ahrens 072 184 8518
eric.ahrens@pamgolding.co.za
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**New Release - R 450 000**

Rare vacant plot in de Beer Street! Measuring 1060m², this represents an excellent opportunity to design your perfect home for this prime site. Existing plans available if required.

**New Release - R4.5m**

Very stylish new home in excellent position on 0.5ha of land with generous water rights. Expansive living and accommodation with three bedrooms and bathrooms, two en-suite. Huge open plan living/dining and kitchen area, with flow to north facing wind sheltered covered patio with views. Central heating and air conditioning, under floor heating and fan assisted fireplace for comfortable living all year. Separate garden cottage, storage facility and architect designed chicken coop! Garden has mature trees, a newly planted olive grove, dam and borehole! Superb investment in Prince Albert!

New Release - R 3.6m

Historic home circa 1854 in sought after de Beer Street, beautifully restored and sensitively remodeled! Four bedrooms, three bathrooms, sitting room and wonderful open plan kitchen/dining and informal entertainment area. Formal living room with fireplace opens to covered verandah which overlooks the 4838m² garden with various fruit and nut trees, vegetable garden, borehole and leitwater dam. Large historic barn with mezzanine level, and two adjoining offices/utility rooms for easy conversion to additional guest accommodation. In mint condition, and very well appointed.

**New Release - R 2.9m**

Superb smallholding in the centre of town measuring 2.7ha. Approximately 2ha planted to port grapes, irrigated by borehole and generous leitwater allocation. Existing open plan cottage with two bedrooms, bathroom and separate guest cloakroom. Good sized living area with fireplace, leading to east facing covered verandah with astonishing views of the distant Karoo landscape. An exceptional opportunity to own land in the heart of the town.



R 1.1m
Very cute Karoo cottage in excellent position. House has two bedrooms, family bathroom with separate loo, and kitchen with Dover stove. Separate garden cottage, storage shed and farm style plunge pool all set in amazing wooded garden with leiwatert running through the property!



PRINCE ALBERT

Eric Ahrens 072 184 8518
eric.ahrens@pamgolding.co.za
princealbert@pamgolding.co.za
www.pamgolding.co.za



R1.2m
Super family home in elevated position with good views of town and mountains. Three bedrooms, two bathrooms large kitchen and double garage make this excellent value for money. Storerooms, carport and large swimming pool.



New Release - R2.6m exc. VAT

Stunning 3.8ha on the eastern fringe of town, with leiwatert and borehole. Completely undeveloped, this property represents a “blank canvas” for endless possibilities of the country way of life. Suited for the development of a lovely home, and a small organic farming operation with its own wetland, which attracts various species of birdlife and small game. Idyllic!

R 4.5m exc. VAT

Superb 8ha property in the centre of town! The large period house has ample accommodation with three bedrooms, two bathrooms, and large interleading reception rooms. The land is planted to fruit trees and 1100 olive trees, all under irrigation from generous leiwatert allocation and a borehole. The property has one labourer's cottage, and a utility shed and storage area. The investment potential in this property is immense. Super views of the Swartberg Mountains.



New Release R 350 000 (excl. VAT) each

Eight vacant plots in central part of town, available individually or as a package deal. Plot sizes range from 1230m² to 1433m², all with excellent views of town and surroundings.

Brett the Vet More Than Meats the I

Given equal consideration, encounters with other species elicit daunting revelations. Used for purposes that attempt to satisfy our desires for food, clothing, leisure, entertainment, company, education, vanity, redemption, and nurturing, cultivated animals in our midst continue to be overlooked. On closer examination the philosophers and scientists struggle to explain the obvious. Our desires don't make us happy and they usually contribute towards the misery of others.

Describing a portrait of the friend is the *raison d'être*. "Hello, yes hello! You are the one and only. I am so excited to see you. Nobody else exists but you. You have my undivided attention. You are everything to me. I never tire of you. You can do whatever you like to me. I am loyal to you. I honour and obey you. My love is unconditional...till death us do part. I keep trying to encourage interaction. I'll continue like this, and maybe one day you will learn to understand what love is."

Geese have a family existence that is analogous to human family life according to the animal behaviourist, Konrad Lorenz, who spent years studying the greylag goose. He observed, for example, that in a community, geese paired up in their adolescence exhibiting very similar behaviour to that witnessed in human courtship rituals, and then the couple remain faithful to each other for life. Furthermore it is also true of our domestic geese that have to endure a closer proximity to humans than males will often mate with up to five females.

Cats know they're superior to man and other beasts, and some humans know it too. This egocentricity doesn't require proof, unless you are a dog. Challenges are dealt with through sheer force of personality and only when cornered, a sharp, well-directed deterrent delivered with precision to the most vulnerable protuberance will suffice. Egocentrism, designed for self-preservation, can also be graciously exchanged for humility at

the drop of a cat that wants something from you.

Sheep remind us of how we might appear to predatory aliens viewing us from their spaceship: Fodder!

Among cows on the other side we can see that it takes more than brute force to achieve anything on elusive greener grass. Cruelty requires cunning.

Pigs plough the ground for tasty morsels so refined as truffles and other delicacies. The appreciation of subtle flavours is less developed in humans because we have fewer taste buds. Our limited capacity to appreciate odours is simply restricted to perfume and putrefaction, hence our need to flavour food.

An elevated ability for blissful relaxation in swine's exemplified in the intensely sensual habit of wallowing, preferably in mud, with friends and family. There is a growing inability to truly relax for humans existing in crowded cities. Suppression of natural behaviour in pigs is characteristic of intensive living conditions where piglets are packed into pens on slats, sows are kept in restrictive crates, reproduction is achieved by artificial insemination, and they're fed unpalatable mush: To bring home the bacon.

Wild horses inevitably break the ice and approach human animals out of curiosity, reaching out gently, guiding us towards interactive communication by offering trust. Impatient for a breakthrough, we break the horse; we break the friendship and make it impossible to break away.

Beasts of burden become the broken hearted prisoners of human triumph and folly. Breaking news very late in the day, a horse whisperer softly reveals equine etiquette, opening a small niche for lovers resistant to our quick fix society.

You're not off the hook if you're not on the hook, so just take a look.

Small Ads

ELECTRONICS FOR SALE:

Garmin Forerunner with heart rate monitor, USB ANT stick, charging clip and owners manual on disc - as new R 2 000

Nikon Travelite V binoculars 9 x 25 very good condition, no pouch R 400

Pentax binoculars 10X 24 very good condition with pouch R 400

Vodafone Mobile Connect modem 3G and GPRS for laptop computers - slot in, not USB R 50

Changeable charger plate for lithium-ion battery packs - works with digital camera camcorder battery - new in packaging R 150

Sanyo SFX 111 fax machine and answer machine - working condition, no manual, uses fax roll R 75

Contact Anton Joubert 023 5411 953 or 082 654 3218

GESOEK

Die HANDMADE-KAROO-HANDGEMAAK gemeenskapsprojek soek 'n kas of kabinet wat kan sluit om die projek se materiale in te stoor.
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Bedrooms 3 Bathrooms 3 Garage 1 WEB 179285
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DE RUST R 1 900 000



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Bedrooms 4 Bathrooms 3 Garage 3 WEB 197679
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Danny, the Lazy Lizard's much-loved golden retriever

Danny, the golden retriever who welcomed the customers at the Lazy Lizard, died of suspected poisoning on 13 January 2011. Katy (7) and Nicolai (8) Pas-trana pay tribute to their much-loved pet.

Katy writes: Danny was a very special dog. He never bit anyone and he loved the customers at the *Lazy Lizard*. When I heard he'd died, I nearly cried and Nici my brother cried. I really miss him and there are customers that always come to the Lazy Lizard with

their dog, Bonny and she also misses him. Every morning when I woke up Danny was there. Well, before Juana got to school, she would take him for a run.

The best part about Danny was that he was always there for us. When I came home from school Danny was always waiting for me. Now, Mom says Danny's spirit is always with us. Every time the Gym ladies walked, Danny would be with them. I used to love lying on him; he was very soft, gentle and loving. Whenever I

cried, he would comfort me. I miss him very much.

Nicolai remembers: I loved Danny very, very much. Each time we drank tea he would bump us, asking for pats and rubs. Every time I put my takkies on he would come with a wagging tail knowing I was going to take him on a run. I used to take him every day up the koppie and often he came back with something in his mouth. Danny's favourite place was the koppie.

He was part of the family. Whenever we went away he wanted to come with us. Danny loved us very much especially Granddad. He was a bit scared of the beach. And Danny never got to see the beach again, but I know he would kind of like it.

Everyday we would feed him and then would hear a scratch at the door. It was Danny wanting to come in! But the best thing about Danny was he was always happy to see me. The last time we took him on a hike he loved it. He was so beautiful and when we called him he would always come back, he was well trained.

Danny, I am sure you are in dog heaven; make friends with Fergus!

PRINCE ALBERT OLIVE FESTIVAL 2011

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Venue:

Jans Rautenbach Schouwburg

Date: Saturday, 30 April 2011

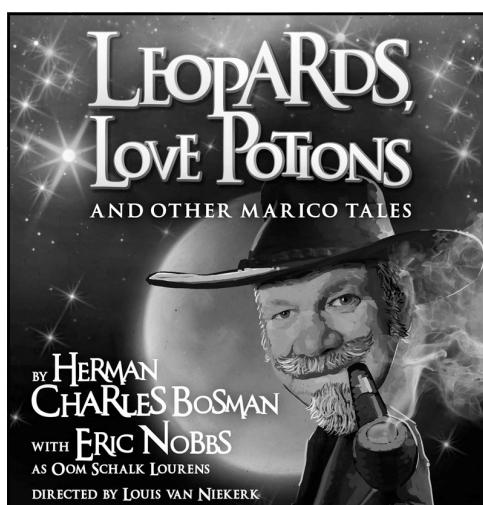
Time: 7pm

Tickets are R80 each and are on sale now at the Tourism Office

Tel: 023 541 1480

or E-mail:

princealberttourism@intekom.co.za



Should the Saturday night show be sold out, don't worry.

Leave your name with Zelia at the Tourism Office and depending on numbers we'll do our best to host the show on Friday night, 29 April

Die HANDMADE-KAROO-HANDGEMAAK projek nooi enige iemand wat belangstel om deel van die projek te word uit om op Woensdag, 9 Maart 2011, om 10:00 na die Sydwell Williams sentrum te kom.

As jy kan brei, hekel of borduur, of as jy lus het om ander handwerk items te maak, kan jy saam met die projek items maak wat jy kan verkoop. As jy nie enige van hierdie vaardighede het nie, sal die projek jou leer.

Die projek is sedert Oktober 2010 aan die gang en die lede van die projek het almal van hulle items verkoop.

As jy belangstel om by die projek betrokke te raak maar nie in die oggende beskikbaar is nie, kan jy vir Ellen Joubert skakel by 023 5411 953 of 0711 556229.

Afhangende van belangstelling kan ekstra projekte gereel word.

Museum News: A Special Man

This is the final part of a three-part series on the life of Prince Albert, the Prince Consort, after whom our town is named.

Queen Victoria was weakened by pregnancy and childbirth. "My sufferings were really severe and I don't know what I should have done, but for the great comfort and support my beloved Albert was to me during the whole time," she wrote. And he won a notable mark of confidence when, during the Queen's first confinement, he was appointed sole Regent in the event of her death.

Between 1840 and 1857 nine children were born to the royal couple and Albert was their tutor. He encouraged them in the arts and imbued them with a sense of moral responsibility and duty. Thus setting a standard which Elizabeth II (his great, great, grand daughter) still tries hard to follow.

Dutiful Albert took on the role of protector, colleague, minister, mentor, doctor and lover. Certainly his usefulness was now assured especially as he had reconciled Victoria with her mother. In politics, he quickly forged strong links with the Tory Prime minister Robert Peel, who was an active reformer after Albert's own heart.

Albert began work at seven each morning, monitoring government business and writing the Queen's speeches. He also represented the Queen on many occa-

sions, carried out scientific research. And as if that was not enough the ever-industrious Albert also designed houses and gardens, was an accomplished gardener, musician, and painter, and patron of the Arts.

Prince Albert will always be remembered for conceptualising, planning and executing the Great Exhibition of 1851. The Crystal Palace, an international event of great importance, housed 100 000 exhibits including the latest examples of art and technology. It was considered to be one of the greatest events of the 19th century.

When Victoria and Albert married in 1840 they had three large houses to live in – Windsor Castle, Buckingham Palace and the Royal Pavilion at Brighton. But no real home. To the growing family they proved to be unsuitable. So the couple decided to build a family home in the country. Victoria wanted "a place of one's own, quiet and retired," and her choice was Osborne House on the Isle of Wight.

The prince had always taken an interest in forestry and gardening but in the city the opportunities were limited. Osborne House, however, was the private property of the Queen and Albert had free hand... designing the park and planting thousands of traditional English trees, along with evergreens and conifers. About half a mile away from the mansion a Swiss cottage – brought over in sections from Switzerland – was erected in 1853. Most probably it was the first prefabricated building in England.

This was where the royal princes learned carpentry and gardening. They grew their own vegetables and today their wheelbarrows – each marked with their initials – are still there. The girls were trained in the basics of housekeeping and cookery.

In August 1861, they travelled together for the last time to Ireland. Albert was exhausted and unwell. Victoria began to record the final illness. He was sleepless, restless, in pain, unable to eat and hardly able to drink. The ignorance of his medical staff and the heroic optimism of his family prevented him being nursed or rested with any proper care.

He could hardly smile anymore and often greeted his wife with a blind strange look, that scared her. On 8 December he asked to hear music and Princess Alice played his favourite chorals on the piano next door. On 13 December 1861 the Queen's diary ends saying that the doctors "said there was no reason to anticipate anything worse." There were no entries after that and Albert died the next day.

The London Times wrote: "The nation has just sustained the greatest loss that could possibly have fallen upon it. Prince Albert, this man, the very centre of our social system, the pillar of our state, is suddenly snatched away from us." And the Queen herself wrote, "My life as a happy one is ended! The world is gone for me! Cut off at forty two.... it is too awful, too cruel!"

In 1845 our own little town was named after this extraordinary man and as a German myself, I am proud to live in Prince Albert.

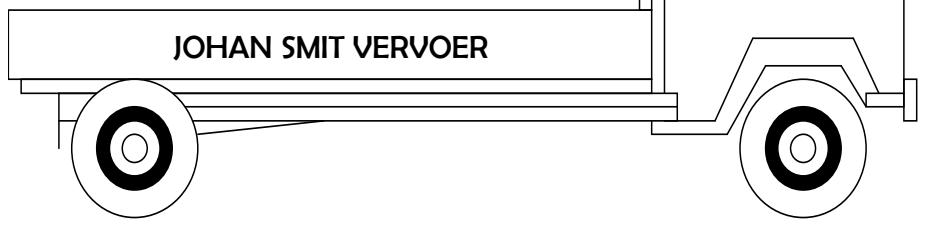
Visit the Fransie Pienaar Museum to see the book and addresses of his Royal Highness the Prince Consort donated by Queen Victoria to our library in 1867.

Sources: H.J. Netzer - *Albert Von Sachsen-Coburg-Gotha, Ein deutscher Prinz in England* This England magazine;
Marina Warner - *Queen Victoria's sketchbook*
Osborne House, Department of the Environment Pamphlet of the Fransie Pienaar Museum

Museum Greetings
Gudrun Toelstede

- * Verskaf van bousand, konkreet en tuingrond
- * Verskaf van boublomme en gebreekte klip op aanvraag
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Jong entrepreneur vol planne



Hardus Mulder, eienaar van Karoo Dou, sit trots by sy produkte (Foto: Denise Ohlson)

- Denise Ohlson -

Hardus Mulder (34) is twaalf jaar oud toe sy ouers uit Montagu na Prince Albert verhuis om hier die Handelshuis en later die Spar te bedryf. Om in 'n winkel groot te word, het 'n durende invloed op 'n kind se lewe: Of hy steek aan, of hy vlug... Ná matriek kies Hardus koers Israel toe waar hy op 'n kibboets en ook in Tel Aviv werk. Via Egipte vertrek hy Engeland toe, maar die triest weer

en die grys betonmure verwilder die "plaasjapie" na 'n jaar terug na sy vaderland en tuisdorp, Prince Albert.

Terug by die huis byt die winkelgogga hom egter onverwags en hy word die eienaar van die Prince Albert Drankwinkel op die dorp. Maar dis nie lank nie of die reisgogga kry weer die oorhand en ná drie jaar verruil hy sy besigheid vir die "American dream". Hy gaan werk op 'n lusernplaas en verdien só sy dollars.

Lief bly hy egter vir Prince Albert en tussen seisoene is hy altyd op die dorp. In 2006 trou hy met dorpsmeisie en oud skoolmaat, Michelle Mongee. Haar pa, Roy, verkoop op kleinskaal skoonmaakkommiddels en Hardus sien die potensiaal (met dié dat die sakegogga hom weer beet het!) om die besigheid saam met sy skoonpa uit te brei en die gehalte van produkte te verbeter. Hardus vertel: "Verbruikers se terugvoer is veral baie belangrik en hul versoek word aan die vervaardiger deurgegee om aanpassings te maak. Die kwaliteit van die skottelgoed wasmiddel is byvoorbeeld so met verbruikers insette verbeter

en het nou 'n gewilde produk geword. Ander treffers is die oondskoonmaker, swaardiens-handeskoonmaker, wasgoedversagmiddel en die veelsydige Pine Fresh Gel wat vloere, teëls en badkamers blink skoonmaak. Mense raak ook ál meer bewus van vloeibare klerewasmiddels in plaas van die tradisionele poeiers."

Baie van die produkte verpak Hardus self in meer hanteerbare houers en hy beklemtoon dat baie van die middels korrek volgens die instruksies verdun moet word. Hy nooi kliënte uit om met hom te beding vir spesiale pryse op grootmaat-verpakkings van 25 kg/l. Hy verkoop ook drie kwaliteite toilet rolle in verpakkings van 10, 20 en 48. Vir 48 rolle ekonomiese toiletpapier betaal jy byvoorbeeld net R96!

Hardus is nou vol selfvertroue dat *Karoo-Dou Huishoudelike en Industriële skoonmaakkommiddels* 'n gawe besigheid is wat hy met ywer en goeie bemerkning tot groot hoogtes kan voer. Sy toekomsdroom is om die produktelys uit te brei na lappe, potskuurders, swartsakke, besems en wat ook al nodig is om huise en besighede higiënies te hou. As hy selfs nog eendag sy eie produkte kan vervaardig, soveel beter.

Prince Albert Water Rhapsody Meeting ALL WELCOME

Jeremy Taylor and Craig Anderson of Water Rhapsody will be paying Prince Albert a visit

DATE - 7th March 2011
PLACE - ONSE RUS GUESTHOUSE
TIME - 12 O, CLOCK

The town is invited to a meeting with Jeremy & Craig who look forward to meeting you and will be available to answer all questions regarding Water Rhapsody systems and how we can help you in saving water

Solar Water Harvest is a business geared to your needs regarding going green, whether it be a solar geyser or grey water re-cycling. We form part of the Water Rhapsody group with 17 years experience and over 3500 installations to date.

Please contact Lisa 0836299196 for any queries

'Water conservation is the only answer for the Karoo this includes recycling and reuse of water from basins, washing machines, baths and showers by households. Termed grey water, it constitutes up to 70% of household water usage, which in turn represents about 30% of SA's water usage. By using grey water in toilets and for gardens, and adopting measures such as collection of rainwater in tanks, households can cut water use by up to 70%' - Mr. J. Taylor

Excellent Service at Prince of Africa

- Di van der Riet Steyn -

Twelve years ago *Prince of Africa* opened on the verandah of the Swartberg Hotel and continued to trade even when part of the hotel burned down on the fateful morning of 16 December 2000. We still managed to serve tea and coffee on the little patch of lawn!

In January this year, at a happy celebratory dinner for all the staff of *Prince of Africa*, Cornie Koen was presented with a gold wristwatch for 10 years of loyal service. She has been a good friend and employee who always has a cheerful smile and a warm greeting for anyone visiting the shop.

When the Koen's first arrived in Prince Albert, Cornie worked for a while at the Standard Bank. She then joined us in January 2000, so that she could work flexi-time to be with her little daughter,



Cornie Koen celebrated her tenth year at *Prince of Africa* in January (Photo: Di van der Riet Steyn)

Illandy who is now 17. Cornie certainly knows her products - from mohair socks to

big fluffy blankets, lovely pottery and dainty jewellery. She ships parcels all over the world and deals with foreigners who hardly speak English. Thank you, Cornie, for being such a reliable and perfect employee. You are an absolute gem.

We also say good-bye and wish an exciting future to Merle Cleaver, who has worked part-time at *Prince of Africa* for nine years. We will miss your efficiency and thoroughness.

On the home front, we have to congratulate Ria de Wee, who has been the cleaning lady at the *Prince of Africa* and our housekeeper for twelve years. A gold wristwatch was presented to her too. Ria has actually worked for three families consecutively, Dr May's, Fred de Jager's and then ours. She is great example to all, as a dedicated, conscientious person with a heart of gold.

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SHORT TERM

Serious hail damage in Klaarstroom

- Klaarstroom Correspondent -

Klaarstroom experienced a white Valentine's Day! No, nothing to do with the cosy, fluffy White Christmases people in the Northern Hemisphere dream of, but a harsh, noisy and destructive hail storm.

Constant predictions of rain on previous television weather forecasts had borne little fruit and Klaarstroomers viewed the inky blue rain clouds to the north-west with the same cynicism as the previous evenings. The gentle, but constant rumbling was attributed to discontented rain clouds deeper in the Karoo.

Suddenly winds of calamitous proportions warned that this was not simply thunder but the ominous rumbling of a pending hail storm. Old inhabitants of the Karoo often speak of "hearing the hail" coming. Younger members of the community can now say that they too will recognize that sound.

To those living under corrugated roofs the noise was deafening. Attempts to reach and relocate cars to safer areas proved fruitless as terrified drivers retreated for their own safety. A resident watched helplessly as his classic *Fintail* Mercedes Benz was bombarded by the hailstones doing irreparable damage. For approximately 20 minutes villagers simply watched in bewilderment as cars, roofs, windows and gardens were smashed. Ominous silence and gentle rain followed as shell-shocked villagers ventured out to inspect the damage.

Members of the residential area in the 'RDP' houses were worst hit as the brittle, unprotected asbestos roofs were shattered by the unrelenting hail. Samples of the hail – as large as a goose egg – were collected. No building could reveal a single PVC gutter piece that wasn't shattered. Miraculously, relatively few windows were smashed as the wind suddenly dropped and the hail fell vertically. The Guest House in the village reported 13 broken window panes and major flooding as the roof was

unable to cope with the enormous weight of the hail.

Most importantly of all perhaps – no injury to any person or animal was reported as Klaarstroomers set about cleaning up and repairing the damage as best they could

Small Ads

SPRING CLEANING?

We, the ladies of the Thursday Group, run a white elephant stall every Saturday at the market to raise funds for needy causes in Prince Albert.

We will take anything (except clothing) that you wish to throw out or discard, irrespective of its condition.

Please remember that 'one man's junk is another man's treasure'.

Phone 023 541-1384

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Ladies, it's time for body detox...

Detoxifying Body Clay Wrap

A warm clay is applied, which helps draw out impurities and smooths and clarifies the skin by restoring purity to the body. A Detoxifying Body Oil will add to the breaking down and elimination of toxins. (90 min) R 420

and get a FREE

Timecare Eye Treatment

An intensive treatment resulting in the reduction of fine lines and easing of deeper wrinkles leaving your eyes fresh and rejuvenated. (30 min) worth R 150

valid until 15 March 2011

Beauty tip of the month: Gum tea...

Healthy looking gums are a must for that perfect toothy smile. A cup of tea is good for gums. The antioxidant plant compounds and polyphenols found in green and black teas also prevent plaque from sticking to your teeth and help reduce bad breath because it slows the growth of bacteria and causes the odour to decrease.

Pricelists available at Prins-Kem Pharmacy and Tourism Office

SALON WITH A VIEW...

Prince Albert Olive Festival

30 April - 1 May 2011

Do you have a cottage on your property or a spare en-suite bedroom in your home that you don't mind sharing with paying guests? Kindly contact the Tourism Office with the details on Tel. 023 541-1366

Prince Albert Olyffees

30 April - 1 Mei 2011

Indien u 'n kothuis, woonstel of 'n spaar slaapkamer met badkamer op u eiendom het wat u nie sal omgee om te deel met betalende gaste nie, kontak asseblief die Toerisme Kantoor, Tel. 023 541-1366

A great achievement by our own Chrisna

- André Jaquet -

Many Prince Albert residents were saddened when Chrisna Smit left town a year ago with her lovely children, Hané and Jan-Stephan. Fortunately, thanks to *Die Volksblad*, we have now again made contact with her and can report that Chrisna and her family are fine and doing well.

In fact she has done so well that she has been appointed as manager of the Free State Youth Orchestra. This group of young musicians has been acclaimed both in South Africa and abroad. This is yet another step in what has been a brilliant musical career. We were excited to read the following news in the 19 January 2011 edition of *Die Volksblad*:

Chrisna Smit weet waarvan sy praat as sy se sy wil die Vrystaatse Jeugsimfonie-orkes (VSJSO) se status herstel. Sy wil die orkes groter sigbaarheid gee, weer 'n liefde vir orkesspel by jongelinge kweek en die orkestradisie in ere herstel.

Die nuutaangestelde deeltydse bestuurder van die VSJSO was 'n klarinetspeler



Chrisna Smit (m) sparkled at her last concert in Prince Albert, with Ailsa Tudhope, Sarah Modra, Peter McEwan and Hugh Forsyth (Photo: Linda Jaquet)

in die orkes toe dit nog 'n spogproduk van die Musicon was.

Daardie jare (1980's en vroe 1990's) was dit elke jong musikus se strewe om in die orkes te speel en as jy eers daar is, het jy so lank moontlik aan jou plek geklou. Dit was 'n groot prestasie om lid van die Jeugorkes te wees. Die standaard was hoog en jy moes hard oefen om daar te kom.

Die Vrystaatse Simfonieorkes het begin verlede jaar die VSJSO onder sy vlerk geneem toe die Musicon die jare lange instelling finaal die deur gewys het.

Die Musicon ressorteer onder die Vrystaatse departement van kuns en kultuur.

Weens geldbeperkings het die Jeugorkes

(Continued on p 21)



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*We invite you to a distilling demonstration by
Judy Maguire, Jeremy Freemantle and Bokkie Botha*

Tyd: 5.30 nm Saterdag 2 April 2011
Time: 5.30 pm Saturday 2 April 2011

Plek: Fransie Pienaar Museum, agter by die stookketel
Place: At the still behind the Fransie Pienaar Museum

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(A great achievement... Continued from p 19) nie meer weekliks onder 'n vaste dirigent geoefen nie en is konserte ingekort. "Drie konserte word egter vir vanjaar beplan, asook skooldemonstrasies en gereelder repetisies op Vrydagmiddae", sê Chrisna.

Soos verlede jaar, sal gasdirigente ook vanjaar die konserte lei.

Die Kapenaar, Alexander Fokkens, dirigent van die Kaapstadse Jeugorkes, sal die uitvoerings in Maart en Junie dirigeer, en die Pretorianer Gerben Grooten die konsert in September.

Grooten, dirigent van die Pretoriase Simfonieorkes, het in Oktober sy debuut in Bloemfontein gemaak toe hy die VSO in die Jeugkonsertofees gelei het.

Al die VSJSO-konserte vanjaar sal in die Odeon-teater op die UV-kampus gehou word.

Skooldemonstrasies sal in Mei by die Laerskool Brandwag plaasvind en in Augustus by St. Mary-skool in Thaba Nchu.

Chrisna sê dit is ontsaglik belangrik om van jonge af in orkeste te speel. "Ek sou nooit oudisies vir die destydse Sukovs-orkes en die Nasionale Kamerorkes geslaag het as dit nie vir al die jare se opleiding in die Musicon-orkeste was nie."

Ongelukkig het junior orkeste wat as voedingsbron vir die Jeugorkes dien, ook onder die jongste Musicon-hoof gesneuwel. Die probleem sal hopelik vanjaar deur die nuwe hoof van die Sentraal-musiekakademie ondervang word. Hans Potgieter wil 'n junior orkes hier op die been bring.

Dit sal die eerste tree wees tot die heropbou van 'n eens wereldklas orkesopleidingsstelsel in die Vrystaat, beaam Chrisna.

Die Bloemfonteiner was 'n leerling aan die Hoer Meisieskool Oranje en het B.A. Musiek aan die Universiteit van die Vrystaat gestudeer. Heinrich Armer was haar klarinetdosent. Terwyl sy in Oos-Londen skoolgehou het, het sy in die stad se simfonieorkes gespeel en daarna as

eerste klarinetspeler in die nou ontbinde Nasionale Kamerorkes in Mmabatho.

Chrisna het verlede jaar na Bloemfontein teruggekeer na sowat tien jaar as onderwyser, orrelis en pianis op die Karoo-dorp Prince Albert. Wanneer Chrisna nie na die belang van die Jeugorkes omsien nie, gee sy les in klavier, klawerbord, kitaar en klarinet by die Sentraal-musiekakademie, Oranje, Grey-kollege en CBC.

We managed to speak to Chrisna to congratulate her and learnt that her entry into this new musical world and big city living was not easy because the orchestra had been starved of funds and the quality of their performances had declined. With a lot of hard work they have improved enormously by embracing musicians from every part of the community and Chrisna has created a new spirit among them. The orchestra now includes some very talented children from Botshabelo. In fact the improvement is such that next month they will perform Beethoven's 6th Symphony, which is a challenge even to well-established orchestras across the world. "It is exciting but I do miss the concerts we had in Prince Albert with Peter McEwan and others" she told us.

Chrisna says that her children have adapted well to their new environment. Jan-Stephan is enjoying Grey College with its great tradition and the wonderful opportunities it offers. Hané is doing well at Eunice Primary School for Girls, which offers really good education of international standard.

Believe it or not, Chrisna has also gone back to school! She is currently studying for her Honours degree in Music, with the clarinet as her first instrument. While she has adjusted to being back in her home province she says that you just don't find the peaceful village atmosphere and character of Prince Albert. On Saturday mornings she thinks back to the friendly and relaxed atmosphere and wonders who is at the Saturday market in Church Street and what all her friends are buying and chatting about.

Wel gedaan, Chrisna. *Die Vriend* en al jou vriende in Prince Albert stuur groete en wens jou baie geluk met jou prestasie. Kom kuier asseblief.

Prince Albert Ratepayers and Residents' Association

REGISTER, VOTE, PRAY

- PARRA Committee -

Yes, register, cast your vote and then pray that good candidates become councillors. Late in May of this year there will be local elections for municipal councillors and everybody of voting age is earnestly encouraged to cast their vote. If you have not already done so please ensure that you are on the voters' roll and that is easy enough.

SMS your ID number to 32810 to check your registration, or call the Independent Electoral Commission's call centre on 0800 118 000 for enquiries on registration and voting, or visit the IEC's website: www.elections.org.za. Voter registration will take place again on 5 and 6 March.

Remember that once the election date has been set you can no longer register as a voter for the coming election. This is no doubt to give the IEC time to produce final voters' rolls for the election.

The Ratepayers' and Residents' Association will give a detailed description of exactly how the election works in the March edition of the *Prince Albert Friend* as it is not dead simple. It involves the selection of candidates, final candidates, voting for ward members, proportional list candidates, Central Karoo District Council and other complexities that have some people baffled. So, look out for clarification in the March edition of the *Friend*.

PRINCE ALBERT

Ratepayers' & Residents' Association
Belastingbetaalers- & Inwonersvereniging



Fortuin to sue Councillors

- Linda Jaquet -

In an exclusive statement to the *Prince Albert Friend*, former Municipal Manager Juanita Fortuin said that in her view, the Council had suspended her on 3 January 2011 without valid reason. As the Council had breached every element of her contract with the Municipality, she had had no choice, she said, but to terminate the contract and is suing the Council for damages. She is also suing councillors in their personal capacity. Fortuin has now taken up a position with the Kannaland Local Municipality, encompassing Ladismith, Calitzdorp and Zoar.

Fortuin told the Friend that she believed that the Council would take the view that it had suspended her because of a report by the Auditor-General at the end of January. However, she was already suspended by then and refutes this. Fortuin, in fact, maintains that she has never been given an explanation for her suspension and said that Council went ahead and suspended her without taking the care to familiarise itself with the terms of her contract.

Fortuin said that while she was on holiday leave in December 2010 the Council made appointments and awarded contracts without following due process. It also continued to do this during January. Fortuin expressed concern that the Municipality was in no financial position to afford the appointments.

Fortuin pointed out that in August 2010, the Speaker, Cllr Stoffel Botes, had "lodged dubious complaints" against her. An independent investigation of the allegations by the former Executive Mayor, Cllr Magdalena Benjamin, had cleared her name. "In contrast," Fortuin said, "the Speaker has not declared his [business] interests despite being required to do so by law. I believe an investigation into this has been withdrawn by Council, yet again protecting their own interests".

"The Prince Albert Council breached my contract in every aspect they could and I was left with no choice but to terminate my contract with them", Fortuin

continued. "I am now suing Council for damages in the High Court. I am suing Councillors in their personal capacity and the Speaker and current Mayor for defamation. I have been smeared by both the Speaker and Mayor who made the accusation that I have been suspended for maladministration and fraud while they are well aware of the facts. In fact the *Friend* some time ago reported that I was cleared by the South African Local Government Association (SALGA)".

Fortuin said: "I am by nature a hard-working and diligent official and I chose this career because I am committed to quality service to communities. That is why I took up the position in Kannaland to continue to serve with commitment and bring about change. This in the current circumstances is extremely difficult."

Fortuin thanked "the Prince Albert community and organisations for working with her and the Municipality to make Prince Albert the place of preference. "I had a vision for PA and I regret that I'm not in the position to realise this vision.", she said. She also regretted not having had the opportunity to say goodbye to the staff at the Municipality. "I want to thank each and every one of my colleagues in finance, technical and community services who helped me in creating confidence in the Prince Albert Community. I hope we will be in a position to work together again in the near future."

The *Friend* approached the Executive Mayor, Cllr April Pienaar and the Speaker, Cllr Stoffel Botes for their comment on Fortuin's statement, which was also copied to the other members of Council. Cllr Pienaar informed the *Friend* that he "would not become involved in mudslinging and had nothing further to say." Cllr Botes indicated that he had consulted with the Mayor and the MEC for Local Government. As the MEC and the Mayor would soon hold a joint news conference to report back to the community, he (Botes) and his colleagues would not comment on the matter at this stage.

Barbara Castle, Chair of the Ratepayers' and Residents' Association told the *Friend* "I certainly miss Juanita Fortuin's work

ethic and her open door policy. The more so because she encouraged a good relationship between the Municipality and community organisations such as ours. I need to get answers back to members quickly... and working with Juanita made my job a whole lot easier."

Annelie Rabie, chair of the DA's South End ward committee commented that Fortuin "made a huge impact in terms of her diligence and commitment to improve relations between the ordinary citizenry and the administration. I am concerned about her comment on appointments made and contracts entered into without due process. We also need to understand whether Council has the necessary insurance against which claims can be made and we need to know who is going to pick up the tab for this expensive exercise". Rabie added that the incumbent Council should disclose why they felt it necessary to suspend Fortuin. "If there are gaps in the integrity of the Council's systems, we need to be assured that they have been plugged and wrongdoings won't happen in future".

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Johnny en Rae - die Valiant prinse



Die jaarlikse George Motorskou het weer op 12 Februarie plaasgevind en Prince Albert se veteraanmotors het ook gaan deelneem. Johnny Breedt en Rae Wynne-Roberts het die eerste prys losgeslaan in die Uitstallersafdeling se "Fancy Dress" kompetisie. In hul safaripakke, vellies en kam in die kous, het hulle die koppe behoorlik laat draai. Hier staan hulle by Johnny (regs) se 1965 Valiant Barracuda (op die voorgrond) en sy 1969 Valiant Safari (in die agtergrond). Hul "outfits" het perfek gepas!

Onder die 950 deelnemers was ook Gawie Breytenbach met sy stilstaande Lister en Norman enjins, sy drie Chev motors en sy Chev bakkie. In die jaar dat Chev sy eeufeesvier, het Brian Gordon-Hogg ook sy spoggerige 1969 Chev C10 bakkie gaan uitstal. Dit was 'n besonder suksesvolle skou en duisende mense het gestroom om te kyk na die motors wat gedateer het van 1905 tot 1975.

(Foto: Paul Cochrane - ook 'n Valiant-eienaar!)

Report on Municipality Due Soon

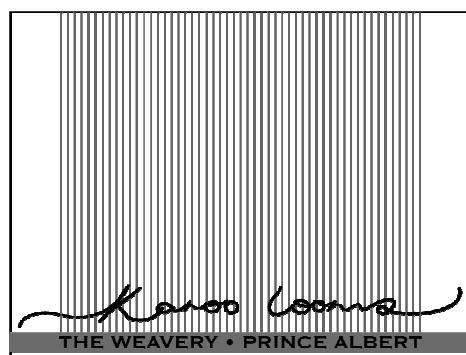
Early in February, a team of fourteen officials from the Department of Local Government, the Provincial Treasury and the Development Bank of Southern Africa conducted an assessment of the Municipality.

Their visit was prompted by the suspension of the Municipal Manager and because the Local Government MEC, Anton Bredell, said he was committed to providing support to the Municipality.

The team spent two days in Prince Albert during which they met with the Council and the respective managers and their teams in the Municipality. The assessment was conducted in the form of interviews and the collection of information and documentation.

Spokesperson for the Department of Local Government, Tania Colyn, confirmed that the report on the assessment should be completed at the beginning of March. Once it has been received, a joint media statement by Minister Bredell and the Mayor will be released. The content of the report will be confidential until then.

In the meantime, the Auditor-General has issued a disclaimer on the financial report for the Municipality for 2009/2010. In other words, he has indicated that he is not in a position to verify the Municipality's accounts. The *Friend* understands that documentation is missing and that the report has revealed a serious lack of capacity in the finance section of the Municipality. The Council wants the accounts reaudited, the costs of which could be substantial.



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Dis koue kos, skat Marita van der Vyver

"Revenge is a dish best served cold."

'n Mens kan seker sê die afrikaanse vertaling vir bogenoemde aanhaling is: Dis koue kos, skat.(!)

In die voorwoord waarsku die uitgewer die leser dat hierdie boek, ondanks die titel, nie 'n kookboek is nie en dat sommige van die karakters so onredelik en onsedelik opstrye dat dit moeilik is om te glo dat hulle tussen ons lewe! Genoeg rede om hierdie boek te móét lees.

Clara Brand se man, Bernard, verlaat haar vir haar seksie, blonde vriendin. Genoeg rede vir enige vrou om wraak te sweer! En as daardie dag aanbreek, haar daarin te verlekker: "Ek geniet elke oomblik van hierdie konsert. Ek het 'n dekade lank gespaar, kan jy seker sê, vir hierdie sitplek in die voorste ry."



In verskeie briewe en e-posse aan haar susters, vriendinne en haar man (wat sy selde pos), stort Clara haar hart uit oor hierdie verraad van haar man en vriendin.

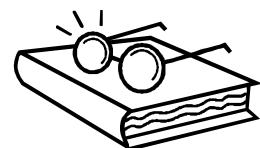
Dis 'n lang pad van verwiste, skuldgevoelens en uiteindelik aanvaarding. Daarom is die wraak soet toe Bernard die dag as die verwerpte een voor haar sit.

"*Dis koue kos, skat*" is egter meer as net gal braak en wraakgedagtes. Glad nie 'n morbiede boek vir gelukkiggetroude pare nie! Hoewel Clara, in haar eer gekrenk, haar hart uitstort, is die trant lig en vol humor, sodat jy soms hardop skater!

"Ons moes slim wees om oud te word." (Clara)

'n Móét-lees-boek!

Ronél McKnight



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Renu-karoo nou ook in die hoofstraat



Caroline van der Ross (regs) is al vier jaar lank betrokke by die Renu-karoo veldrestorasieprojek van Richard en Sue Dean. Hier staan sy by die nuwe kwekery in die hoofstraat saam met Monique Bernic, 'n derde jaar Natuurbewaringstudent van Saasveld wat tans har praktiese jaar onderleiding van die Deans doen. (Foto: Renu-Karoo)

- Denise Ohlson -

Tydens die gesellige opening en bekendstelling van Renu-karoo se satelliet-kwekery in die hoofstraat van Prince Albert, het prof Sue Milton-Dean die Departement Bewaringsekologie bedank vir hul befondsing, en haar man en venoot dr Richard Dean geprys vir sy waardevolle insette en harde werk om die kwekery fisiek te vestig. Hul span werkers is ook uitgesonder vir hul entoesiastiese en troue diens: Meraai Isaacs, Caroline en Jasmien Pienaar, Wilfred Luttig en Ernst Murphy.

Die Deans woon en werk sedert 1986 in Prince Albert. Hulle was aanvanklik vyftien jaar lank betrokke by die Universiteit van Kaapstad se biome-projek op die plaas Tierberg, waar hulle die uitwerking van wild- en veeweiding op die grond bestudeer het. Daarna het Sue 'n professoraat aan die Universiteit van Stellenbosch aanvaar in die Departement Bewaringsekologie, terwyl sy steeds lesings in Natuurbewaring bly gee het by Saasveld. Terselfdertyd het Richard as orintoloog saam met twee ander redakteurs gewerk aan die op-

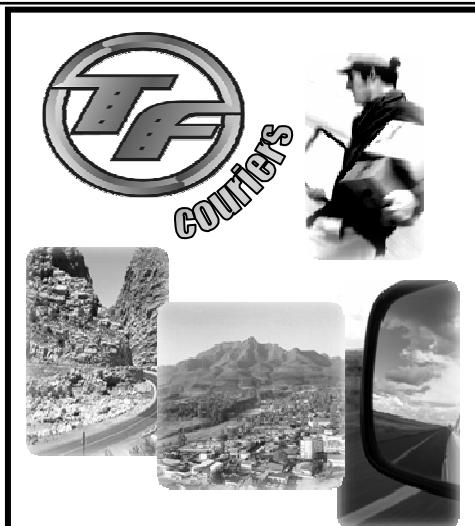
gedateerde *Roberts' Birds of Southern Africa*.

Tussen oorsese lektorate deur het Richard en Sue aan hul eie besigheid begin bou: Einde 2005 het hulle 120 ha grond skaars twee kilometer buite Prince Albert gekoop en hul "saad- en plantskuur" daar opgerig. Die einddoel, om saad aan boere beskikbaar te stel sodat die uitgeweide veld weer herstel kan word tot prima weiding, is volvoer en Sue vertel: "Ons oes steeds baie saad langs die hoofpaaie waar daar nie gewei word nie. Dit is belangrik dat almal - die owerhede inkluis - besef dat skoffel 'n verwoestende praktyk is. As 15 mm groei gelaat word wanneer daar "skoongemaak" word, word daar ekologies vriendelik te werk gegaan."

Die egpaar het begin om hul plante ook na die dorpsmense te bring deur elke week voorraad op Prince Albert se Saterdagoggendmark te verkoop. Die sukses hiervan het hulle laat besluit om 'n satellietkwekery op die hoek van Kerk- en Van Dykstraat te open waar plante elke dag te koop aangebied word. Met dié droom nou bewaarheid, is inheemse plante van elke soort en geur nou op almal se drumpels beskikbaar.

So tussen die kooigoed, spekbos, wildeknoffel, Dawidjieswortel, kiepersol en kattekruid bied gasvroue Engelie Mostert en Adele Joubert ook elke Saterdagoggend 'n teetuin aan met vars pannekoek, skons, muffins... en ja, koffie ook – en vars sap.

Onlangs het die Deans besluit om 'n honderd hektaar van hul saadplaas tot private natuurreervaat te laat verklaar in die vaste vertroue dat die grond so behoue sal bly vir die nageslag. Gaan loop gerus saam met Richard en Sue en kyk deur hul bewaringsbril na die natuur: Hulle bied ekonomiese toere aan wat persoonlik en besonders is. Hulle kén die plante en voëls van die Karoo-veld en kan hul ervaring oordra op 'n baie verstaanbare vlak. Maak 'n afspraak by die toerismekantoor en verryk jou kennis.



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FORGING AHEAD with *Striking Metal*



Striking Metal's Robbie, Pieter, Gershwin and Kashief with the forge's dog, Zaza. (Photo: Sandy Farmer)

- Barbara Castle -

Who would have thought you could make anything halfway elegant, by hand, from something as unyielding as cold hard steel? Yet visit Kashief Booley's *Striking Metal* studio just off Skaapiescinde and you will be amazed.

Undoubtedly *Striking Metal* brings to Prince Albert a new business attraction that is sure to be a hit with locals and visitors alike. Blending effortlessly into the stark Karoo landscape with a corner garden of aloes is a huge forge. And from it comes some of the most unique metalwork that I have ever seen.

So, before *Striking Metal* is overrun with 'tourists' and commissions from out-of-towners, make a point of visiting the forge and taking a look at this ancient craft. You can also discuss any metalwork you would like done with the maestro blacksmith himself.

Booley's team comprises artist blacksmith Robin 'Robbie' Hanney, apprentice Gershwin and helper Piet, with the promise of more employment for locals as the business grows. And don't be misled. A blacksmith is *not* a farrier (one who shoes horses) nor is he a welder. Artists like Booley and Hanney craft metalwork that is both decorative and functional. Using only heat from the forge, hammer, anvil and bulging biceps they wring out the most stylish designs.

This way of shaping and joining metal gives each piece a special quality and character. All of which is very different to the mass-produced qualities of cut and weld fabrication.

Originally Booley was a marine researcher trying hard to curb his creative spirit. He made good money and had job security but he felt stifled and restless. Eventually, he got together with wife Sophia (a restaurant manager) and his brother Mustapha (a sales rep) to pursue metalwork.

"I opened my studio, *Striking Metal* blacksmith forge, in January 2001," he says with a nostalgic smile. "I'm a self-taught artist blacksmith ... so meeting Welshman, Robbie, who had 30 years' experience in the mines, was a real bonus. Blacksmithing is his religion... he lives and breathes fire!"



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They make their own tools, jigs and tongs. Booley draws a design for an art deco metal headboard on the floor of the workshop in chalk, and Robbie and Gershwin forge the intricate pieces. Watching them at work, heating, shaping, swirling and curling metal with total concentration was fascinating. The robust ringing of hammer on anvil, the sizzle of steam as red-hot steel met water, the tilt of the blacksmith's head as he appeared to 'listen' to the

(Continued on p 27)

The Story of a Memorial Garden



A small section of the garden dedicated to the memory of Pixie Sharp

- Ione Auerswald -

Johan du Toit recently approached the Thursday Group for help in creating a memorial garden for the late Pixie Sharp in a part of the garden at Huis Kweekvallei. As Pixie loved nature, her garden had to be animal friendly, water wise and easy to maintain.

I have a good working relationship with both the office personnel at Huis Kweekvallei, Carita Schoeman and Johan and the garden staff, Hendrik Wanie and Jonathan Gurrah. They were always ready to help with ideas and get things done at all times. The Thursday Group's Rosemary McEwan and Nora Halstead helped with planning and layout. Peggy Clow-Wilson donated the bird feeder, while the Thursday Group raised funds

to buy the birdbath. Shireen Reid donated some Tulbaghias and Trix Ellis, aloes. Lydia Barella of the Fransie Pienaar Museum allowed me to use an old railway sleeper, which was lying around, in the back garden as the centrepiece in the new garden.

Johan Smit donated the gravel and Karel Ontong our gardener was enthusiastic about the project. My husband, Ken, carted sand in his precious "First Wife" bakkie, drilled holes and mounted the plaque on the sleeper. Without his help I would not have succeeded. He then bought the ideal ornamental tortoise for the garden!

Working in the garden at Huis Kweekvallei has proved to me once again that living in Prince Albert is good.

(Forging Ahead... Continued from p 26)
metal. And at the end of it... a timeless masterpiece of lasting quality.

"Heat steel to a thousand degrees and it becomes like putty," says Booley, "you can shape it any way you want. So we can make just about anything our clients fancy... from huge decorative installations for corporates, to wrought iron balustrades, railings and gates, to hinges, candle sticks and architectural fittings."

And how did the Booley family come to settle in Prince Albert? "Sophia and I were doing a bit of a road trip, you

know, Nieuwoudtville, Merweville, Calvinia and when we got to Prince Albert Sophia said, 'I could live here...' and that was it."

Booley expects to have the forge running at full capacity within the next few months. So do yourself a favour and visit *Striking Metal* now. There is something both ancient and honest about the blacksmith's trade... it's sure to prove an unforgettable experience.

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Garden Club News



Olive oil maker, Essie Esterhuizen, illustrates the workings of his olive press (Photo: Gudrun Toelstede)

- Sue Goosen -

The Garden Club 2011 calendar started with a visit to the impressive new premises of Prince Albert Olives. Twenty members and visitors were given a comprehensive guided tour of the press by olive oil maker and estate manager Essie Esterhuizen. The state-of-the-art Italian press can process up to 900kg olives per hour, producing extra virgin olive oil of award-winning quality. Many

factors influence the quality of the oil and scrupulous attention to hygiene, temperature control, speed of processing and prevention of oxidation are of paramount importance.

While we enjoyed awesome panoramic views over the olive groves, Essie taught us how to properly taste olive oil on the tongue. We sampled two oils – one was a blend from the press, the other was a well-known imported brand. It was clear

to all of us that the local oil was superior in aroma, taste and quality. "Local is indeed lekker!"

The health benefits of extra virgin olive oil are well documented, and both oil and bottled olives can be purchased from the press (next to Olienhoef caravan park and campsite), Monday to Friday from 07:30 to 13:00.

Kay Howes was the winner of the draw; a jar of olives kindly donated by Essie.

The next meeting on Wednesday, March 2nd at 3pm will take place on the shady stoep of Gill Hall's home, 4 De Beer St (opposite Zwartberg High School). "Reuse, Re-invent and Recycle in the Garden" will inspire you with new ideas to be less wasteful (and save money too!) Ellen Joubert will chat to us about the local recycling initiative and there will be tea and a lucky draw. All this, and more, at R5.00 for members and R10.00 for visitors.

Please bring a folding chair and your coffee mug, and share your own ideas for garden recycling with us!

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Teams of 4. Any combination of men, women & children can run or walk. Try to wear a team colour so your team stands out. Entry forms are available at the Lazy Lizard.

R40 / team

Friday 25th March 2011

Begins 18h00 at the Lazy Lizard.

Lots of prizes to be won!

Karoo Hamper Raffle!

We are raising money for our upcoming official half marathon on 30th April, so we are raffling a hamper of local karoo products worth at least R1200. The hamper will consist of a number of olive oils, select wines, olives, fig & other fruit products as well as choice karoo lamb & pork.

Tickets can be bought @ R5 each.

The raffle will be drawn after the relay. If the raffle does not come to your door, you can buy tickets at the Lazy Lizard.

Don't forget , our half marathon and 10km runs are on the Saturday morning of the Olive Festival. Start your weekend on a good note and join us in the early morning. Enjoyment is guaranteed:



21.1km, 10km race and 5km fun run/walk

<http://www.zwartberg.com/runners>

Chamber of Commerce Back in Business

- Linda Jaquet -

The Prince Albert Chamber of Commerce is going on a serious membership drive in 2011, newly elected chairperson, Richard Waterston, told the *Friend*. After a year of not much activity and the loss of members the Chamber intends working hard to be the voice of Prince Albert's business community again.

Waterston explained that the Chamber of Commerce was concerned about the creation and maintenance of the conditions that promote business activity and employment and ensure the economic sustainability of the town. However, the management committee's priority in the first half of the year would be to increase the organisation's membership.

The Chamber will contact every person and organisation listed in the *A – Z Directory* to encourage them to join the

Chamber and to be included in the updated 2011 version of the directory. Listing in the directory costs R10.

Membership of the Chamber starts at R200. To find out more take a look at the Chamber's website by visiting the short link at <http://goo.gl/JZhi5> or contact Richard Waterston on 0828014897 or 0235411929

The committee meets again on 10 March and Waterston says he would welcome suggestions about matters that the Chamber should address.

E-mail the Chamber at princealbert-chamberofcommerce@gmail.com or contact one of the committee members:

Richard Waterston – 0828014897;
Sue Dean – 0827700206;
Eric Ahrens – 0721848518;
Yolande Singery – 0828828289.

The Chamber of Commerce was launched in March 2009 and successfully lobbied for 3G and ADSL Internet connection, produced an A-Z business directory and the Proudly Prince Albert logo and stickers.

Waterston stressed that the new committee intended building on these successes and combining efforts with the business community and local government to boost business in Prince Albert.



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NATURAL GAS IN THE KAROO: THE WHOLE FRACKING DEBATE

- Judy Maguire -

'The Karoo has a potential natural gas deposit that could contribute to the country's future energy security and create thousands of jobs' – so claims a leader in the Mail and Guardian Critical Thinking Forum supplement of November 12-18, 2010.

To many people, particularly those governing a country where the energy demand already exceeds supply, where shortfalls inhibit foreign investment, and where poverty and youth unemployment appears to be a growing and almost insurmountable challenge, the promise of natural gas must be music to the ears: an option to be pursued at almost all costs.

To others, increasingly aware of the possible environmental risks and costs involved, it is one development option for the water-stressed Karoo that should be considered **highly undesirable**. Should commercially viable quantities of natural gas be located, the cumulative impact of a massively industrialised industry moving into a completely rural area – gas liquefaction and deliquefaction plants, importation and distribution infrastructure, pipelines, rail and truck traffic, bulk storage services, dormitory settlements, etc., would change the face of the Karoo entirely.

In the Karoo, natural gas is found in the dark organic-rich shales of the Prince Albert and Whitehill formations situated at the base of the Ecca Group of rocks.

Such rocks occur to the east, west and north of Prince Albert, as close as the local OK Bazaars, in fact. These formations extend over a very large area from close to the line between Kimberley and Grahamstown in the east to Loeriesfontein and Laingsburg in the west. In the central part of this area, the target shales may be as much as 4-5 km below surface. The oil company Shell has applied for a concession to explore for gas over 90 000 square kilometres of the southwestern Karoo basin. Other companies such as Bundu, Falcon and Sasol have also initiated exploration.

The recovery of the natural gas involves a process known as hydraulic fracturing or 'fracking'. This requires large amounts of water (and a cocktail of toxic chemicals) to be pumped at high pressure down specially drilled and lined boreholes into the shale rock to open up fissures, from which the gas can be extracted. When one considers that each fracking event uses some 15 million litres of water (G. Morgan, DA MP), and that each well could be fracked several times, and that several hundreds of wells could be drilled, one gets some sense of the volumes of water required.

Shell has promised not to encroach on the potable water reserve of the Karoo to pursue this process. What is their alternative? Mr Phaldie Kalam, Shell Africa Vice President Communications, has stated that "We are looking at the possibility of bringing in sea water and brackish water. The possibility of railing the

water is good. The Karoo has a good rail network." Mr Kalam is obviously not aware that whole sections of the Karoo network have fallen into disrepair and in any case do not serve all the main target areas. The existing rural gravel roads are not adequate to cope with hugely increased heavy truck traffic.

The brackish water Mr Kalam is referring to is the brackish water that occurs naturally at some depth at many places in the Karoo. Mr Kalam considers the chance of potable groundwater contamination by chemical pollutants, sea water and gas minimal. He stated that 'we will be drilling at about 4000m below surface', so that 'drilling will take place far from fresh water supplies' (which occur up to about 200m), and that 'Shell will use protective steel pipes which will bypass the fresh water aquifer. They will be encased in cement, providing additional security against leakage.'

Environmental disasters often only become apparent with hindsight. South Africa is fortunate in having a 'guinea pig' in the United States of America, with some 450 000 fracking wells in 34 states.

There are numerous reports of domestic groundwater wells contaminated with natural gas, fracking chemicals and other toxins, farm animals losing hair and weight, human health problems, open wastewater storage pits, hugely increased truck traffic, mini-refineries, pipelines and storage facilities at every well, natural gas bubbling from formerly pristine springs and even several households whose tap water can be set alight (Josh Fox, director of the documentary *Gaslands*).

Small wonder then that fracking has been banned outright in several states of the USA. The American regulators have been unable to protect their citizens and environment from an aggressive and well-funded industry.

An even worse scenario exists in South Africa where there is a lack of adequate regulatory legislation and controls as far as fracking is concerned – also of monitoring

(Continued on p 32)

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(Fracking... Continued from p 31)

criteria and the institutional infrastructure for bringing offenders and incidents of non-compliance to book. The DA would like a moratorium on fracking and insists that the precautionary principle be employed, not only because the necessary regulatory framework is not in place, but because of the many unknowns surrounding the fracking method and its environmental and social consequences. There simply is no local experience of this technology at all.

Mr Kalam of Shell states: "There are currently no laws in the US that place a moratorium on fracturing". Too right. Neither are there any as yet in South Africa. So it is easy to say that "We will comply with regulations required in SA. We will negotiate with land owners".

What Mr Kalam has not spelled out to local landowners is that the cards are stacked against them. While they may be able to negotiate terms of access to their

properties, landowners do not have the right to deny a mineral rights option holder from exercising his right to prospect for gas or minerals – or to exploit them. This went out with the old Roman Dutch Law concept of property rights, where surface rights, water rights, and mineral rights could be leased, bought, or sold independently of one another. Mineral rights could be held in perpetuity and bequeathed.

In the New South Africa, all minerals, and particularly strategic minerals, belong to the State, as does the water. People will have to impress on the State that such natural resources are not the State's private assets but belong to the people of South Africa and revenues and benefits accruing from them should be shared, and deal-making, if ever it should come to that, should be a transparent process in which revenue-sharing with affected communities is an important part.

DA to Choose Local Candidates

The Democratic Alliance's selection process for councillors to contest wards during the upcoming local elections this year has started in all earnest. The DA had two primary selection processes held in Prince Albert on 4 and 11 February. At the first meeting a panel of 15 members from all over the province interviewed an initial 10 candidates. On 11 February five panel members under the leadership of Theo Beyleveldt, a former Mayor of Overstrand and now a member of the NCOP, scrutinised candidates again.

Interviews for mayoral candidates will take place at the beginning of March. Thereafter the DA's Provincial Party leadership will discuss and approve a list of candidates and then the Federal Council will give its stamp of approval or make adjustments. Only then will the candidates be informed and their names made public.

**Renu-Karoo
Veld Restoration cc**

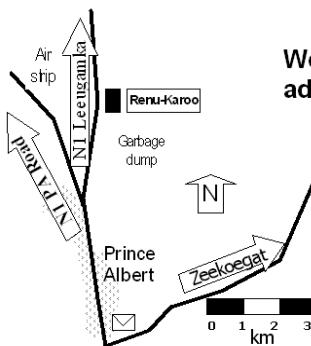


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VLV NUUS

Marietjie Vermeulen bring 'n boodskap van hoop

Marietjie Vermeulen, ma van drie en eienaar van *Robin's Nest* op Oudtshoorn, het Prince Albert-VLV op 9 Februarie besoek.

Hierdie innemende en inspirerende vrou het 'n lang en moeilike pad gestap saam met haar dogter, Bertine. Bertine is met 'n breingewas gediagnoseer en het by die dood omgedraai nadat dokters aanvanklik foutiewelik geglo het dat sy met swak sig gebore is.

Ten spyte van haar feitlike blindheid het sy haar as predikant gekwalifiseer met behulp van 'n groot bydrae deur haar ma, Marietjie, se buitengewone deursettingsvermoë, geloof en hoop.

Vandag, na 'n lang en moeisame pad, is sy predikant by die NG Kerk in Schoemanshoek.

Marietjie se boodskap is dat moeilike tye, klein of groot, deur die Here op jou pad geplaas word met 'n doel: Om dit in Sy hand oor te gee, dit is wat geloof en hoop beteken!

Die Skilder Maria Oosthuizen besoek VLV

Die gewilde skilder, Maria Oosthuizen, besoek Prince Albert op 12 Maart. Alle lede van die publiek word hartlik uitgenooi om hierdie wonderlike geleentheid by te woon.

Maria gaan haar werk met 'n praatjie toelig en ook iemand saambring wat die boodskap in dans en mimiek oordra.

Dit sal op 12 Maart 2011 om 09h00 by die Jans Rautenbach Schouwburg gehou word. Die koste daarvan verbonde is R50 en die oggend sluit tee en verversings in.

Navrae vir kaartjies: Dalene Coetzee by 082 5002252 of Ilse Koortz 0721991889

'n VLV-Jaar Propvol Opwinding en Voedsel vir die Siel!

Price Albert-VLV se nuwe jaarprogram is vol nuwe interessantheede om na uit te sien.

Met die tema: *Aanhouer wen!* kan dit ook nie anders nie. Met elke vergadering wil ons 'n positiewe bydrae lewer om die vroue van Prince Albert te bemagtig.

Van die opwindende aktiwiteite waarna ons baie uitsien is:

- Die akteur Paul Eilers se besoek op 27 Mei waar die hele publiek welkom sal wees.
- Die skilder, Maria Oosthuizen, wat ons op 12 Maart 2011 kom besoek.
- 'n Kursus in die maak van papier-mâché word ook nog vir later in die jaar beplan. Hou gerus die *Prince Albert Vriend* dop vir verdere inligting.

So lyk ons program vir die res van die jaar:

12 Maart

Besoek van Maria Oosthuizen

13 April - Landbou en Tuinbou:

Besoek aan olyfplaas

11 Mei - Gesondheid

20 Julie Leefstyl:

SAPD-inligtingsessie rondom aanranding

24 Augustus - Openbare sake:

Ons vriend die rekenaar...

September - Lentetee

Oktober - Kunste en Handvlyt:

Besoek aan *Bella Mia* (pottebakery) te Schoemanshoek

2 November - Afsluiting

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Dalene Coetzee by 082 500 2252 of by 023 5411 781.

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Autowash Liquid (NEW!)	Liquid soap for auto-washing machines	R18-00	R34-00	R80-00
Softie	Fabric softener	R12-00	R22-00	R49-00
Super Spot	Strong fabric stain remover	R15-50	R29-50	R69-00
Bleach Regular	Regular bleach	R11-00	R20-00	R45-00
Thick Bleach	Thick and soapy for toilet bowls	R14-00	R26-00	R58-50
Loo Strip	For tough stains in toilet bowls	R13-00	R24-00	R54-00
Mrs. Handy	Hard surface cleaner	R11-00	R20-00	R45-00
Pinefresh Gel	Multi-purpose cleaner	R25-00	R48-00	R108-00
Mr. Grill	Oven and grill cleaner	R12-00	R22-00	R49-50
Diamond	Window cleaner	R10-00	R18-00	R40-00
Carpet Powa	Carpet wash	R15-50	R29-00	R65-00
Toilet paper	Single-ply quality toilet paper	R28-00 (10)	R56-00 (20)	R134-00 (48)
Aerofresh	Air freshener: Various scents	R14-00	R26-00	R58-00
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Wildekanisland Valentynsdag Hamburgers nou 'n instelling

- Ellen Joubert -

As jy 'n vlytige persoon is wat aan die begin van die jaar jou kalender invul met daardie datums wat elke jaar vas staan, kan jy maar by die Vrydag naaste aan Valentynsdag aanteken dat jy 'n hamburger by Wildekanisland daardie aand moet gaan eet.

In 2006 het Wildekanisland Kleuterskool die eerste keer die Valentynsdag Hamburgeraand gehou. Sedertdien is dit op die skool se kalender een van die grootste fondsinsameling operasies vir die jaar en op die dorp se kalender een van die geselligste geleenthede om die jaar mee af te skop.

In 2006 is daar 300 etekaartjies verkoop en daar was heelwat honger mense wat weggewys moes word. Hierdie jaar is 'n rekordgetal van 400 hamburgers verkoop en daar was steeds 'n paar laatslapers wat teen skemeraand wou kom kaartjies koop. Teen R30 vir 'n heerlike hamburger, 'n ruim porsie skyfies en 'n koeldrank, is dit



Tilanie en Hans Daehne van Astro Tours het 'n sterrekykaand aan Wildekanisland en die gemeenskap geskenk (Foto: Anneke van Eck)

geen wonder Prince Alberters weet al dat hulle kaartjies moet koop so gou as wat dit beskikbaar word nie.

Elke jaar raak die gesellige gekuier op Hoërskool Zwartberg se sportveld nog lekkerder. Hierdie jaar het 'n skare ondersteuners piekniekombes en kampstoele oop-

gevou en opgeslaan om kuier-kuier hulle boksie kos te eet terwyl die donkerte toesak. Toe dit behoorlik donker is, het Hans en Tilanie Daehne van *Astro Tours* skielik om almal se aandag gevra en toe die wonderlikste lesing oor die hemelruim vir almal aangebied. Met hamburger in die maag, kon jy te heerlik deur die teleskoop loer na die geboortelep van sterre en selfs sien dat daar g'n man in die maan is nie, maar wel 'n haas! Wat 'n wonderlike bonus en dit alles vir R30!

Wildekanisland is afhanklik van fondsinsameling om die groot getal kinders wat nie die volle skoolfonds kan betaal nie, van beurse te voorsien. Hierdie jaar het die hamburgeraand 'n rekord R 9 000 ingesamel uit hamburgerverkope, donasies en borgskappe vir die aand. Hierdie bedrag kan tussen vier en vyf kleuters die kans gee om hierdie jaar graad R by Wildekanisland te doen.

Maak gerus 'n aantekening om volgende jaar jou hamburger op die sportveld te kom eet.



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Onvergeetlike Spog Valentyns-Ete

- Ferdi Willemse -

Op Valentynsdag, 14 Februarie, maak drie en dertig paartjies met groot opgewondenheid gereed vir hulle romantiese Valentyns-ete in die VGK-saal. Dit kos elke paartjie R100.

Die VGK-saal was gepas vir die geleentheid getooi met rooi en pienk balonne teen die mure terwyl die tafels versier was met rooi en wit T-liggies in kersstaanders, rose, glasbekers gevul met heerlike sap en lekker versnapperinge - alles die werk van Zenia Nuku en haar span.

Een van die vele verrassings van die aand was 'n *Best Dressed Couple* kompetisie. Bokkie Botha was die borg en dis gewendeur Dalena Claassen en Melanie Maans - wat nou uitsien na die heerlike ete by die *Olive Branch* wat hulle gewen het.

Benita Claassen het die smaaklike hoof-



Bes geklede vriende Dalena Claassen en Melanie Maans by die Valentyns-ete in die VGK-saal

gereg van gebraaide hoender, kaasstokkies en aartappel en noedelslaai voorberei en dit is gepas gevolg deur 'n verkikkende nagereg van vanielje en aarbeiroomys en ys-koue waatlemoenblokkies.

Die *Zig Zag Band* het die atmosfeer in 'n betoverende aand omskep en sommer gou

het die voete gejeuk en is daar verwoed gedans en sokkies en hoë hakke het goed deurgeloop.

'n Ieder en 'n elk het die aand terdeë geniet en was beïndruk met *Fun Entertainment* se puik diens.

Een van die gaste, Jakobus Stols, het prontuit gesê dat dit die mees genotvolle geleenthed was wat hy in die laaste tien jaar bygewoon het! Die wat die geleenthed verpas het, het hulle name bo-aan die lys vir die volgende funksie geplaas!

Hierdie was die eerste geselligheid van die nuutgestigte 'Fun Entertainment' organisasie - die vennote is: Ferdi Willemse, Deon Nuku en Shaun Skaarnek. Dit was 'n uiters geslaagde proeflopie van ons drie jong entrepreneurs om hulle vernuf as geleenthedsbeplanners (Event Planners) te toets en 'n nuwe besigheid in Prince Albert te begin.

Baie dankie aan elkeen vir hulle insette en bydraes, dit was 'n GROOT aand!



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Afhangend van hoeveelheid werk sal ons ten minste een dag per maand in die dorp wees.

A Memorable PA Valentine's Day



The evening of 14 February in Prince Albert was warm and balmy with a typically glorious Karoo sunset. Twenty guests celebrated Valentine's Day by soft lamplight on the stoep at *Café Albert*, where the theme, *My Love is like a Red, Red Rose*, was carried through in the décor and table settings. The tasty menu prepared by William Mathews and Christo Cloete and the soft Karoo rain inspired guest and local baritone, Peter McEwan, to break into a spontaneous rendition of Robbie Burns' much loved poem.

A starry-eyed Eluize Fodor commented: "What a perfect evening! At *Café Albert* you are not just a customer, you are family. No-one is a stranger."

At Mix elsewhere on Church Street, Nicola Fellowes and Gill Hall treated six couples to a delicious meal of delicate flavours – vichyssoise, followed by either lamb tagine or chicken saffron, both accompanied by freshly-picked vegetables, and finally a choice of crème caramel and pears poached in red wine.

Mix's quirky and eclectic interior, with red satin hearts adorning the shop window and gentle jazz music provided a backdrop to the candlelit tables on the open air pavement. Threatening clouds and large drops of rain towards the end of the evening did not deter the guests, who stayed on and enjoyed the wonderful romantic ambience.

U kan daardie trotse oupa of ouma wees wat die kinders so bederf.

U wil in u goue jare dinge doen wat regtig belangrik is. Dalk is dit om u stokperdjie te beoefen, om te reis na lande waarvan u nog altyd gedroom het, of om eenvoudig meer tyd saam met u familie deur te bring.

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'N WONDERLIKE HUMORIS SE STEM VIR ALTYD STIL

'n Huldeblyk aan Fanus Rautenbach

- Lettie Breytenbach -

Dis nogal vreemd as iemand vandag vir jou sê, "Ons ken nie vir Fanus Rautenbach nie". Die ouer geslag (voor TV) neem sommer net aan dat almal Fanus of Umfaan moet ken. Gedurende die laat 1960's en 70's was hy 'n huishoudelike naam, veral by die Afrikaansprekendes; groot en klein, almal was ingeskakel op die Afrikaanse diens van die SAUK. Grootmense het op die dagbreekprogram *Flinkveria* met die pennielfluitjieskenwysie ingeskakel vir die dag se goedvoel humor. Kinders (asook groot- en oumense) het in die aand (na die aandstorie) hulle verbeelding vrye teuels gegee saam met ons agent-007 Staal Burger waarvan Fanus die hoofskrywer was. Trouens, Staal Burger het bestaan lank voor James Bond...merkwaardig! (Ian Fleming het al geskryf, maar nog nie verfilm nie).

Ek is van mening dat die negatiwiteit en selfs depressie wat ons ou volkie vandag kenmerk tot 'n groot mate toegeskryf kan word aan die swaar en gewigtige 'aktuële' berigging wat waarmee ons op radio en TV-kanale reeds vanaf vroegoggend gebombardeer word.

Fanus Rautenbach het as omroeper die skerpsinnige vermoë gehad om as humoris die lag in die traan te sit. (*Sy eie aanhaling*)

Nadat na sy wakkerwordprogram geluisster is, was 'n mens lus vir die dag se uit-

dagings en het pitkos ontvang, baie waarvan jou lewenslank bybly.

Fanus was baie lief vir die Afrikaanse taal. Wanneer 'n Afrikaanse term of woord nie bestaan het nie is een vindingryk geskep. Voorbeeld: vonkpos vir e-mail, klankskyf vir CD, rekenaar vir computer, skyfies vir chips en bromponie vir scooter, asook baie, baie meer.

Fanus was 'n gekwalifiseerde Afrikaanse onderwyser, maar het die onderwys verruil vir KARFO en die SAUK nadat sy skrywersloopbaan 'n draaiboekrigting ingeslaan het.

Sy eerste radioprogram was in *Almal se kraal*, 'n versoekprogram wat die eerste inbelprogram op radio was.

Die sukses van die wakkerwordprogram *Flinkveria* het daarin gelê dat dit nie 'n voorbereide teks of formaat gehad het nie. Fanus vertel self dat hy soggens die koerantopskrifte teen die pale gelees het en dan met fyn woordspeling begin het... die luisteraars/inbellers het dan verder borduur.

Bv: Die I.O.K gaan beswaar maak dat die vyf ringe van die Olimpiese simbool vir ons eie S.A Spele gebruik word. Waarop Fanus toe reageer: "Ons moet liewer die waterbok as simbool gebruik i.p.v die springbok, dan het ons nie net bokke nie, maar ook die ringe."

Sy fyn woordspeling word gevind in o.m die volgende van sy staaltjies dat elkeen sal sterwe volgens sy beroep:

Reisigers gaan heen.
Die melkman en posman kom om.

Parlementslede op groen kussings gaan sag heen.

Jagters gaan bokveld toe.

Kokke steek lepel in die dak.

Die dominee het die tydelike met die ewige verwissel.

Die dokter se hart het gaan staan.

Die ouderling is ontslape.

Die koster het die doodsklok hoor lui.

Skoonmoeder - die duwel het haar kom haal... en nog baie meer.

Fanus was nie 'n grapjas nie, wel humoris en slim storieverteller. Van die stories wat hy verewig het in sy publikasie *Lach nog 'n Slach* is van die skoolhoof wat haastig die oggend, nadat hy verslaap het, vinnig aangetrek het en in die proses vergeet het om die ritssluiters van sy broek toe te trek. Hy het die oggend met die saalbyeenkoms iets belangrik op die hart gehad waaroor hy vir die leerlinge wou aanspreek. Toe hy op die verhoog staan is die hele samekoms onrustig en gigglelig en begin hy dramatiesernstig:

"Aandag kinders! Hier is iets leliks besig om kop uit te steek..."

Dan sy vriend Gerhard Mynhard se skildery wat in 'n toiletraam monteer was (baie modieus so 'n era gelede): "*Kuifkop-kaketoe in 'n stinkhoutraam*"

Fanus was 'n man met deernis en fyn waarneming. Hy was lief vir kinders veral die met 'n agterstand in die lewe. Sy hoorbeeld *Die Hemelkinders* oor Downsindroom was 'n absolute hoogtepunt; het dan ook 'n Arteestoekenning verwerf.

Sy Christelike liefde en toegewydheid word weerspieël in sy liefde vir sy gesin en veral sy vrou Douwlina Grobler, die vrou met die fluweel radiostem, Vroujie Douwtjie. Toe Vroujie later deur Alzheimers aangeset was, het hy haar liefderik bygestaan en sy lewe so ingerig dat hy haar solank as moontlik kon versorg. Haar dood het by hom 'n groot sielsgenootelemt gelaat - hy het hartstogtelik na haar verlang.

Daarom kan ons vriend Fanus groet met die wete dat hy nou gelukkig is in 'n realm waarna hartstogtelik vooruitgesien is, saam met Vroujie Douwtjie en die Hemelkinders. O...die lag daar is sekerlik uitbundig!

JOHAN MULDER VERSPREIDERS

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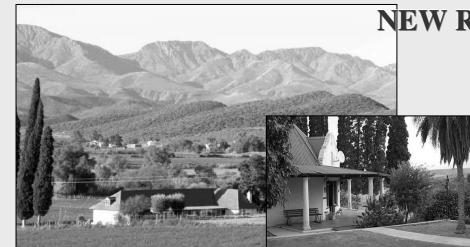


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convertible to a rental unit.



Albert College students excel in Commonwealth essay competition



Sandy, Hannah and Chandré with their certificates (Photo: Ailsa Tudhope)

- Ailsa Tudhope -

Every year the Royal Commonwealth Society runs film, photo and writing competitions for children around the world. In 2010 Albert College took part in the "Science, Technology and Society" Essay competition and three of our children were awarded certificates. The proud scholars are: Hannah Modra (Silver), whose essay was entitled "Welcome to my Utopia", Chandré Schoeman (Silver): "The day my computer started misbehaving" and Alexander Swanepoel (Bronze): "The Mad Scientist."

An extract from the Society's promotion material explains their focus: "As the world's oldest global writing prize for young people, this extraordinary project gives them a voice by promoting literacy, academic excellence, story telling, reflection, awareness and creativity.

Across the Commonwealth, the Competition generates huge amounts of good will, loyalty and enthusiasm. Established in 1883, the Commonwealth Essay Competition - *'Write around the World'* - has evolved into a unique education project with over 50,000 students participating annually. Writing is a universal mode of expression: no matter what their

scholastic or social background, young people all over the world have access to pens and paper or a computer."

Our three entrants' work was judged against the following criteria: "Prize-winning entries invariably engage the reader's attention in an entertaining, interesting or thoughtful manner. Qualities shown by candidates may include originality, imagination, creative writing skills, clarity of thought, sincerity of voice, skilful story telling, sound scholarship or well-documented research. When giving Gold, Silver and Bronze awards, examiners usually choose those entries which have shape and structure, keep to the point and demonstrate care and effort on the part of the writer." We are very proud of our trio's success.

Entry to the competitions is free and they are open to all school-going children in the Commonwealth up to the age of eighteen. The Albert College crowd have already put on their thinking caps to consider this year's theme, which is "Women as Agents of Change."

Commonwealth Day is celebrated on 14th March, so it's appropriate that we are able to announce our local prize-winners in this edition of the *Prince Albert Friend*.

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